

Chapter 6

Paul ended chapter 5 with... “vs 25 Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.** 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.” ... Now he outlines some very practical ways that describing what it means to “live by the Spirit”.

- **To keep in step** = to range in regular line); to march in (military) rank (keep step), that is, (figuratively) to conform to virtue and piety:

What Does It Mean to “Live By The Spirit”

Sometimes we make living in the Spirit out to be something “spooky” when in reality, it is often a very practical experience. Yes there are supernatural and miraculous events that can take place, and God does speak to us etc; but living out the realities of the kingdom of God are very down-to-earth.

Restore those caught in a sin

Gal 6:1-18 NIV Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, **you who live by the Spirit** should **restore** that person **gently**. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

To RESTORE = to complete thoroughly, that is, repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust: Here are some other scriptures where this word is used. It gives us the sense that we are helping the person get to the place they were created for, or to be useful again, or complete.

- 1Th 3:10 NIV Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and **supply** what is lacking in your faith.
- Mar 1:19 NIV When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, **preparing** (KJV mending) their nets.

GENTLY - 2Ti 2:24-26 NIV And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be **gently** instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

We must work for restoration in gentleness or the spirit of meekness...for it is the fruit of the Spirit...see Gal 5:23...and we must be aware of our own capacity for temptation.

But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted

- None of us is free of temptation...We must be care to not become conceited or exalted in our minds if we are dealing with someone who has been overcome by sin - the same issue could just as easily happen to us.

- 1Co 10:12-13 NIV So, if you think you are standing firm, **be careful that you don't fall!** 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. **But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**

Carry each other's burdens

2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Gal 5:13-14 NIV You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 **For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

- The law of Christ is to love one another
 - Joh 13:34 NIV "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
- It is as if he is saying, if you want to be under the burden of the law...fulfill THIS law of Christ
- Help carry each other's burden - BURDEN (through the notion of going down; weight)

Rom 15:1-5 NIV **We who are strong** ought to bear with the failings of the weak and **not to please ourselves.** 2 Each of us should **please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.** 3 For **even Christ did not please himself** but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement **give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,**

Don't think too highly of yourself

3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.

- We are not so spiritual as to be beyond temptation
- We are not so important as to be beyond bearing the burden of another

Each should test their own actions...Each should carry their own load

4 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load.

When it comes to walking in the Spirit, each of us must test our own actions, each of us must carry our own load. I am personally called to keep in step with the Spirit and to fulfill the law of Christ. To compare ourselves to others we may think as "lesser" than ourselves is folly.

Each should test their own actions

- 2Co 13:5 NIV Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?
- 1Co 3:13 NIV their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

Each should carry their own load

- 2Co 10:12-13 NIV We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, **but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us**, a sphere that also includes you.

Share good things with their instructor

6 Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

The word **share** = to share with others (objectively or subjectively): - communicate, distribute, be partaker.

The word is used in terms participating in meeting the needs of others and it carries with it the concept of giving in the sense of a mutual sharing and participation.

- Rom 12:13 NIV **Share** with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- Rom 15:26-28 NIV For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a **contribution** for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. 27 They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have **shared** in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. 28 So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.
- Php 4:15 NIV Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church **shared** with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;

Giving to the local church to support ministry is not to be looked at as a business on the side of the church (i.e. How can we raise more money?), and it is not to be considered as charity on the side of the congregation (i.e. We better give some money or the pastor will be living on the streets)...it is instead a partnership of giving and receiving where both parties contribute to the mutual benefit. To be a partner with your local church includes giving...and is considered a mark of a person who is keeping in step with the Spirit.

Reaping and Sowing

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; **whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

Each of us must choose where we sow seed...to please the flesh, or to please the Spirit. Regardless of our choosing, there will be a reaping that takes place.

- Don't become weary in doing good
- Do good to all people - especially to those who belong to the family of believers

Do not grow weary in doing good

9 **Let us not become weary in doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, **as we have opportunity**, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- Let us not become weary in doing good --- the harvest will come if we don't give up
- As we have opportunity, do good to all people
- Especially to the family of believers

Closing - final comments AGAINST the Judaizers and FOR Paul's position

The Judaizers

11 See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand! 12 Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. **The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.**

- Judaizers are looking to avoid persecution for the cross

13 **Not even those who are circumcised keep the law**, yet they want you to be circumcised **that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh.**

- Those who are circumcised do not keep the law
- They want to boast about another circumcised Gentile

Paul

14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which **the world has been crucified to me**, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; **what counts is the new creation.**

- May I only boast in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ
- The world is crucified to me and I to the world
- What counts is the new creation

16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule--to the Israel of God. 17 From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

- The true israel is those who have partaken of the new creation
- Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule
 - **RULE** - (a straight reed, that is, rod); a rule ("canon"), that is, (figuratively) a standard (of faith and practice); by implication a boundary, that is, (figuratively) a sphere (of activity): - line, rule.
- I bear on my body the marks of Jesus
- **Mark** = a mark incised or punched (for recognition of ownership), that is, (figuratively) scar of service:

Paul says that he bears on his body the marks of Jesus...perhaps scars from persecution that have come his way because he is a slave to Jesus...

- **MARKS** - to "stick", that is, prick); a mark incised or punched (**for recognition of ownership**), that is, (figuratively) scar of service: